

By: Kuempel

H.B. No. 3911

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a trial court's instructions to a jury.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 23, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter D to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER D. JURY CHARGE

Sec. 23.251. REQUIRED JURY INSTRUCTIONS. The judge of a trial court in the judge's charge to a jury shall instruct the members of the jury of their duty to:

(1) judge the law to determine whether the law is unjust or unjustly applied to a party in a case;

(2) determine the validity of the evidence; and

(3) vote on the jury verdict according to the members' consciences.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to a jury empaneled on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.